

The Urban District Council of Caterham.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

THE PRIORY,

CATERHAM VALLEY,

March, 1916.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Caterham.*

GENTLEMEN,

As Medical Officer of Health I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report for the year 1915 for the District over which you preside :—

Area, Statistics and Population.

The area comprises 2,438 acres, with an estimated population of 14,926. This population is of course much larger than the normal one and is wholly increased by the large average number of recruits at the Guards' Depot. The total figure is arrived at as follows :—

Estimated civil population :—

Registrar General's return	7596
Metropolitan Asylum	1930
Recruits, Guards' Depot (average)	5400	
		Total 14,926

There has been 182 births and 110 deaths, this includes the number of births and deaths assigned to the District and gives a birth rate of 23·9 per 1000 of the population and a death rate of 14·4. These rates are estimated on the civil population only and does not include the populations of the Asylum or Guards' Depot. Some portion of the Guards' Depot population should be really included as many of them are practically permanent residents, viz. the trained

soldiers. If this were done it would reduce somewhat the birth rate and very considerably the death rate, approximately the latter figure to our normal rate, i.e. 9 to 10 per thousand.

Owing to the war it is almost impossible to arrive at any satisfactory statistics and the above must suffice pro tem. The death rate has perhaps slightly risen during the past year.

There have been 14 deaths of Infants, i.e., children under one year of age, of these 2 were due to whooping cough, 2 to tubercular meningitis, 4 to Bronchitis and pneumonia, 1 to congenital malformation, 4 to premature birth and 1 to intestinal obstruction. There were no deaths of infants from summer diarrhoea.

Infectious Diseases.

Seventy four cases of infectious disease were notified during the year viz., 11 of Diphtheria, 6 of Erysipelas, 23 of Scarlet Fever, 19 of Cerebro Spinal Fever, 3 of Ophthalmia, 8 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 of other forms of tuberculosis.

Of the above, 38 cases were notified from the Guards' Depot, viz., 5 of Diphtheria, 1 of Erysipelas, 13 of Scarlet Fever, and 19 of Cerebro Spinal Fever, i.e., all the cases notified in the District.

Three of the cases of Erysipelas were notified from the Metropolitan Asylum. This leaves 33 cases only belonging to Caterham. Only one case proved fatal, viz. 1 of Diphtheria. There were 8 deaths from tuberculous disease during the year, but these were not necessarily those reported during that period.

Close co-operation during the year has been kept with the Military Medical Authorities and all cases of infectious disease have been mutually notified where this course was deemed necessary. Much Sanitary work has been requisite during the year, not only because of the large number of men at Guards' Depot, but also because of the number of men billeted in and around the District. Again I would express the thanks due to the Military Medical Officers for their co-operation and assistance.

Schools.

The usual Sanitary supervision has been carried out during the year. No schools were closed on account of any epidemic disease and on the whole the health of the children has been very good. The after-care Committee has again rendered excellent service in endeavouring to carry out any recommendation of the School Medical Officers.

General Hygenic Proceedings.

The Sewage Works have been worked to their utmost capacity during the past year in consequence of the large intake from the Guards' Depot. The works are in a satisfactory condition and a good effluent is obtained.

The number of cesspools emptied during the year, in the portion of the district not sewered, has been 803. The contents after being deodorised are removed to the Sewage Farm in covered vans.

Housing of the Working Classes.

The number of houses in the district under £16 rateable value is 957, over £16 and under £26 is 269, and over £26 is 457.

Systematic inspection has been made of the cottages. Two cases of over-crowding were dealt with. One cottage has been closed as unfit for habitation.

The following defects were remedied during the year :—

Drainage Defects and Stoppages	230
Defective Dust Bins	59
Animal, Manure and Offal Nuisances	7
Defective Walls and Roofs	42
Distempering Rooms	38
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Total	376

House Refuse.

The Council have removed 3,428 loads of House Refuse during the year. This is either burnt by the Brickworks or on sites at a distance from inhabited houses.

New Buildings.

Plans of 13 new houses or additions to existing houses have been passed by the Council.

Water Supply.

Periodical Analyses were made of the water supplied from the mains of the East Surrey Water Co. The water maintains its high standard of excellence and purity.

Slaughter Houses.

Frequent inspection of the three slaughter houses in the district has been made but no case of tuberculous meat has been detected. The slaughter houses are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 6 Cowkeepers and 10 Dairymen. The Dairies and Cowsheds have been repeatedly visited and found to be in order.

Sale of Foods and Drugs Act.

The number of samples analysed during the year has been 33. Nine were found to be adulterated or to have deteriorated. There has been three prosecutions and convictions.

Factory and Workshops Act.

There are 6 Bakehouses, 6 Laundries, and 25 workshops and workplaces in the district. These are in proper sanitary condition and well suited for their respective trades.

S. DAVEY,

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Caterham.